

Hubert-Yeargan Center Happenings

Summer 2025

Our mission is...

to train globally minded, socially responsible clinician-educators and scientists who are dedicated to advancing human health and reducing health disparities both domestically and globally.

What we do:

Inspire young professionals by exposing them to potentially life changing experiences in resource constrained environments around the world

Develop mutually beneficial, collaborative relationships which address the needs of local communities

Support global health research efforts while providing clinical care for disadvantaged and vulnerable populations

HYC Leadership

Executive Director
Chris Woods, MD, MPH

Associate Director
GHP Program Director
Nathan Thielman, MD, MPH



Chris Woods and Nathan Thielman

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HYC Develops Partnerships for Site-based Research and Clinical Training in Peru

Earlier this year, HYC leaders Dr. Chris Woods and Dr. Becca Lumsden along with HYC affiliate faculty Dr. Sofi Zavala and Dr. Ernesto Ortiz met with collaborators in Peru to explore opportunities for expanding research and clinical education partnerships. We are excited to spotlight the current and developing joint programmatic initiatives in Peru.

P01 Project: Harnessing the Host Response to Leptospirosis for Diagnosis and Prognosis

Under a program project grant (PPG) from NIH, a collaborative research consortium was created between UCLA, the Medical College of Wisconsin, Institut Pasteur and Duke through HYC, to support development of host response-based biomarkers for the diagnosis and prognosis of leptospirosis, a widespread zoonotic disease in the world. Led by Dr. Chris Woods, the program's Clinical Core has been supporting prospective enrollment of patients with acute febrile illness in the city of Iquitos, located in the Loreto Region in the Peruvian Amazon as well as in two other international sites (Moshi, Tanzania, and Apartado, Colombia). The enrollment in Peru is occurring in two large MOH hospitals: Hospital Regional de Loreto and the Hospital de Apoyo de Iquitos. We are very proud of this research partnership and look forward to building on this collaborative effort.



From left to right: Javier García, Becca Lumsden, Juan Carlos Celis, Sofi Zavala, Cesar Ramal, Jehoshua Lopez, Raul Chuquiayauri, Greisi Curico, Chris Woods, Ernesto Ortiz.

Future Clinical Exchange Opportunities

In addition to the research partnership, HYC has signed a new clinical exchange agreement with Hospital Regional de Loreto (HRL) in Iquitos, Peru. Iquitos is the capital of the Loreto Region. Loreto borders Ecuador, Colombia and Brazil, and is only accessible by plane or boat. HRL is the public teaching hospital for the region, serving a catchment of roughly 1 million people in both semi-urban and rural areas. HRL has ~130 inpatient beds, including dedicated Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, OB/Gyn, ICU and Emergency wards. The hospital also has a standalone Infectious Diseases department, with six dedicated faculty, many of whom are involved in the P01 project, and its own robust residency program. The ID department sees patients with a vast array of neglected tropical diseases.

Starting in 2026, Duke residents and fellows in the Global Health Clinical Elective and Global Health Pathway (GHP) training programs, from across Departments of Medicine and Pediatrics, will be able to engage in clinical and research training at HRL. Residents participating in clinical electives will spend ~8 weeks at HRL, working alongside Peruvian residents and faculty to learn about health care delivery and the unique epidemiology deep in the Peruvian Amazon.

Additional Duke Initiatives in Peru

This summer, Professor Liliana Paredes, Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, (CLACS) together with HYC Affiliate Faculty Dr. Ernesto Ortiz, successfully launched the [Duke in Peru program](#)—a six-week program for Duke undergraduates to explore public health, environmental health, and intercultural engagement across the coast, Andes, and Amazon regions.

This August, a team from Duke—including researchers from DGHI, HYC, CLACS and the Amazon Research Consortium ([ARC](#))—traveled to Peru to initiate a collaboration with the Universidad de Ingeniería y Tecnología ([UTECH](#)) and [Amanatari](#). The team engaged in strategic meetings with UTECH and Amanatari officials and visited indigenous communities in Loreto.

Donations

The Hubert-Yeargan Center for Global Health is sustained by generous donations from our donors. We value the collaborations we've built with individuals, organizations, and other academic medical centers dedicated to dramatically improving the healthcare and lives of people around the world.

Your donations directly support our training programs. On behalf of our trainees, and everyone whose lives their work has touched, thank you for supporting our programs!

To donate directly to the Hubert-Yeargan Center, visit hyc.globalhealth.duke.edu/giving-back/ or scan the QR code below.

To mail a donation, please contact us at Hubert-Yeargan@duke.edu for more information and to ensure the check is received by our office.



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In Memory of our
Founding Director
G. Ralph Corey, MD

Global Health Pathway: Introducing the 2025 Cohort

In July, the Global Health Pathway (GHP) welcomed its 18th class of residents and fellows. The 2025 Cohort represents diverse clinical subspecialties from across Duke.

Courtney Welch (Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine Fellow) is enrolled in the Master of Science in Global Health Program. She hopes to gain skills as a physician and researcher to advocate for marginalized groups and will be working in Peru.

Rebekah Boyd (Integrated Thoracic Surgery Resident) aspires to be an academic leader in equitable global cardiothoracic surgery by building a dual academic and clinical career and will be working in multiple sites.

Megan Badejo (Orthopaedic Surgery Resident) has an interest in pediatric orthopedics from trauma care to oncology and will be working in Uganda.

Sheena Song (Cornea and Global Ophthalmology Fellow) will work closely with Duke Ophthalmologist, Dr. Lloyd Williams and international ophthalmologists to help train residents and young eye surgeons to provide high quality eye care and surgery in Indonesia, Guyana and other Duke Global Ophthalmology sites.



Bottom left to top right:
Megan Badejo, Sheena Song, Courtney Welch, Lana Abusalem (GHP 2nd Year) and Rebekah Boyd

Bilateral Educational Exchange Updates



Charity Gathigia and Samantha Collins

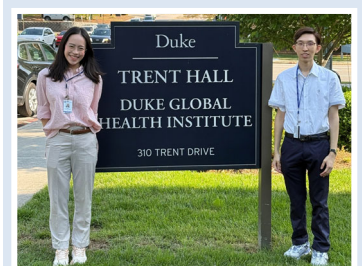
A Happy Reunion in Eldoret

Samantha Collins, a Duke resident in the Combined Medicine/Pediatrics Program, reunited in Eldoret, Kenya earlier this year, with Charity Gathigia, a registrar from Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital who completed her international clinical elective rotation at Duke in Fall 2024. Dr. Collins had the opportunity to round on General Medicine and Pediatric wards during her 8-week rotation.

Visiting Medical Students from Thailand

HYC hosted our annual clinical rotation for medical students from the Faculty of Medicine at Siriraj Hospital at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand. Ms. Svita Taveeamornrat and Mr. Khetsophon Poochipakorn completed their international clinical elective at Duke in May 2025 before returning home to complete their medical school training. While in Durham, they met with Duke medical students, rounded in General Medicine, Rapid Response, Radiology and Surgery. They also had the chance to train on Duke's Electronic Medical Records System, tour the Medical Library and Medical School facilities, and take in a show at the Durham Performing Arts Center.

Khetsophon Poochipakorn shared this kind note of thanks — *"I'd like to recognize Dr. Rebecca Lumsden for taking care of me and providing me opportunities to witness the excellency of Duke in various departments. I'm also grateful to Dr. Henry Rice and Dr. Walter Lee for taking me into the OR, and to Dr. Parsa Ghasem, Dr. Emory Bucks, and their team for allowing me to round with them."*



Ms. Svita Taveeamornrat and Mr. Khetsophon Poochipakorn

New Class of Residents for 2025-2026 Global Health Clinical Elective Rotations

This year, we will send residents from Internal Medicine (5), Pediatrics (4), Med/Peds (3), OB/GYN (2), Med/Psych (1), and Neurology (1) for Global Health Clinical Elective Rotations. They will be traveling to partner institutions in Moshi and Mwanza, Tanzania; Eldoret, Kenya; Bangkok, Thailand; Shiprock, New Mexico (Indian Health Service); and Iquitos, Peru.



Global Health Clinical Elective Rotation
Trainees at Curriculum Night